Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Brayford, North Devon	**National Grid Reference** SS685346	**Number:**
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording on the Brayford pipeline.		**Photo attached?** Y
Planning Application no: n/a	**Recipient museum:** Barnstaple Museum	
OASIS ID: exeterar1-66864	**Museum Accession no:** NDDMS 2009.21	
Contractor's reference number/code: EA6815	**Dates fieldwork undertaken:** 16/03/08 – 17/03/08	

Description of works
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the replacement of a water main at Riverside Cottages, Brayford. Five trenches were monitored (see Fig.1). Of these, trenches 1 and 3 revealed stratified deposits containing smelting slag. Several fragments of smelting slag were recovered from alluvial deposits in trenches 2 and 4 and trench 5 was cut entirely through modern deposits and revealed no archaeology or natural strata.

Trench 1 (see Fig.2)
0-0.3m (105) – mid brown friable silty clay (topsoil)
0.3-0.65m (104) – mid greyish brown firm clay (alluvium)
0.65-1.2m (100) – pale mid brown fine clayey silt with frequent slag inclusions, burnt clay and charcoal
0.65-0.9m (101) – yellowish light brown silty clay
0.9-1m (102) – pale reddish grey coarse grit
1-1.2m (103) – pale yellowish brown fine silty clay (natural?)

Trench 2
0-0.25m (200) – paving slabs and associated make-up layer
0-25-0.62m (201) – alluvium
0.62-0.7m (202) – pale brown firm clay

Trench 3 (see Fig.2)
0-0.15m (306) – tarmac and hardcore
0.15-0.3m (305) – light brown crushed grit and sand (made ground)
0.3-0.4m (304) – yellowish light brown coarse gritty silty clay
0.4-0.42m (303) – hard iron-stained slag and furnace waste
0.42-0.52m (302) – yellowish light brown coarse gritty silty clay
0.52-0.60m (301) – solid layer of iron stained slag and furnace waste
0.60-0.72m (300) – pale greyish yellow clay with occasional sub-angular stones <0.3m (natural?)

Trench 4
0-0.15 (400) – tarmac and hardcore
0.15-0.58m (401) – alluvium
0.58-0.7m (402) – gritty light yellowish brown silty clay (natural?)

Trench 5
0-0.65m (500) – modern service trench fill

Discussion:
Context 100 (see Fig. 2) possibly represents the fill of a cut feature. A single pottery sherd was recovered from this deposit (late 1st-early 2nd century Roman Gritty Grey ware - possibly part of a flagon), together with 7 fragments of slag. Of the latter, 5 fragments are smelting slag and 2 fragments are tap slag (with nil iron content) 3 fragments of smelting slag have furnace lining attached to them.

22 fragments of smelting slag were recovered from alluvial and unstratified deposits in trenches 1-4 and large quantities of smelting slag and furnace waste were observed in section and left *in-situ*.

A significant amount of archaeological remains associated with the former Roman iron industry has been found in Brayford. The stratified slag-rich deposits (100, 301 & 303) from trenches 1 and 3, and fragments of slag from the alluvium and topsoil in trenches 1-4 are indicative of this iron smelting industry, although no evidence of *in-situ* iron smelting was revealed.

Project archive and 'OASIS' report
A fully integrated project archive has been compiled and will be deposited within three months at the museum of Barnstaple and North Devon. A summary of the investigations, including a PDF copy of this report has been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS.

Recorder:	**Date sent to HER:**
M. Leverett (Exeter Archaeology)	07/12/2009

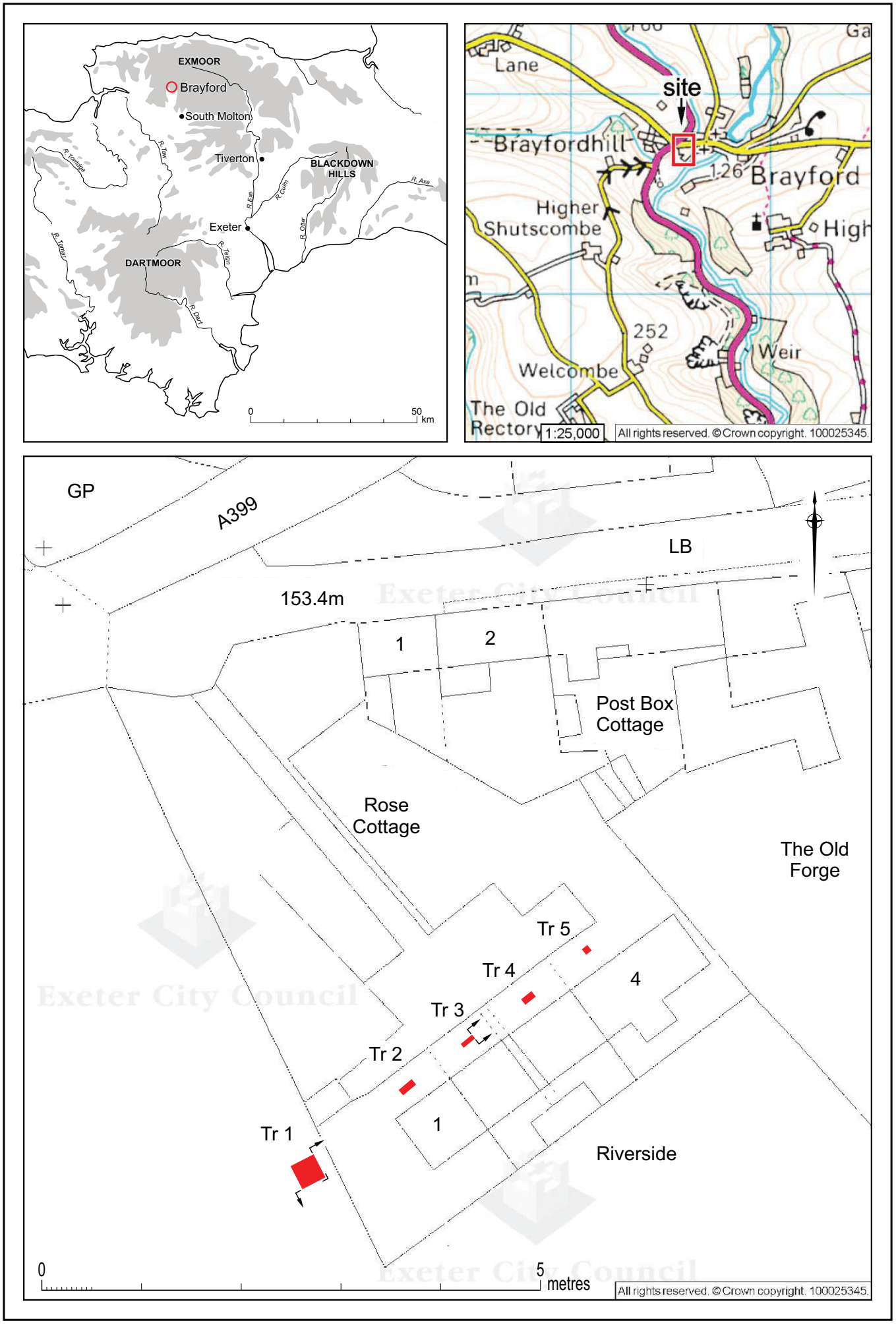

Fig. 1 Location map, showing trenches 1-5.

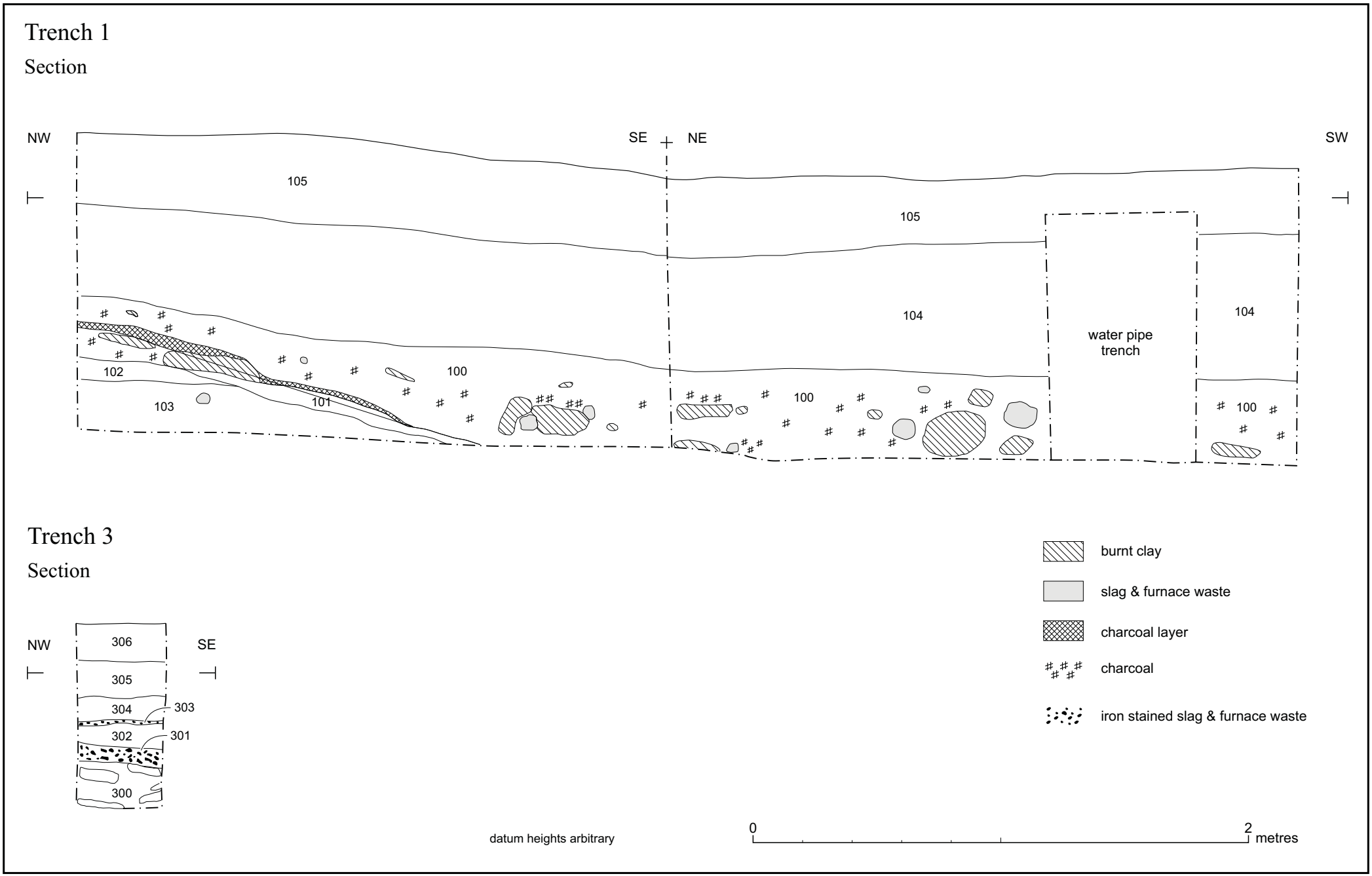

Fig. 2 Trench 1: north-east and south-west facing section. Trench 3: north-east facing section. Scale 1:20.

Fig. 3 South-west facing section across Trench 1. 1m scale.

Fig. 4 Detail of south-west facing section across trench 3. 0.25m scale.